



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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Memorial Parkway  
McLean, Virginia

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## **George Washington Memorial Parkway News Release**

**For Immediate Release: May 23, 2007**

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### **National Park Service Hosts Historic Wedding Celebration**

*Arlington, VA*— History comes alive for park visitors on June 30 at Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, during a celebration of the 176<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Robert E. Lee and Mary Anna Randolph Custis. From 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., park staff will host a series of interpretive and educational events about wedding customs and traditions of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century with a focus on music, dancing, food, and clothing. The day will end with a wedding, in which Dr. Talmadge Williams and Nina Gutierrez will exchange vows at 4:30 p.m. in full period clothing in the same parlor where Robert E. Lee wed Mary Custis on June 30, 1831.

Dr. Williams is the chairman of The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, a partner with Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, and is president of the Arlington branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Ms. Gutierrez is an Arlington business owner and an active member of the Arlington community.

In addition, this year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lee's birth. This date is a prime opportunity to celebrate his life and the critical personal decisions that had historic significance and public ramifications. This day-long program provides a window into the past through use of marriage and family as important themes, both of which offer a deeper, more complex look at the various interconnected strands of Robert E. Lee's life and character. The event will also showcase themes relevant to the lives of the Custis and Lee families and the enslaved community.

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For more information about this opportunity to fully experience life at Arlington House in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, contact Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, at 703-235-1530 or via e-mail at [Emily\\_Weisner@nps.gov](mailto:Emily_Weisner@nps.gov). For general information about Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, visit [www.nps.gov/arho](http://www.nps.gov/arho).

Open every day from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial is accessible by Metro on the Blue Line at the Arlington National Cemetery stop. A 15-minute, vigorous uphill walk through the Cemetery's North Gate brings you to Arlington House. Arlington House is also accessible from the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Park at the Arlington National Cemetery, and walk or take the Tourmobile shuttle bus. Admission to Arlington House is free. However, there is a charge for parking and the Tourmobile.

Arlington House is administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a unit of the National Park Service. For more information about over 25 sites located along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, contact the National Park Service at 703-289-2500 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp>.

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